

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08935 031915Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8935

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

SUMMARY: CONGEN REPORTING AND INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 08935 031915Z

EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN INDIA

REMAINS CALM. THERE HAVE BEEN MORE ARRESTS OF SECOND ECHELON OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND PARTY WORKERS. THE DMK CONTINUES A LOW KEY DEFIANCE TO THE EMERGENCY. WE ARE RECEIVING INDICATIONS THAT CONGRESS (R) MPS WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED MRS. GANDHI ARE DISGRUNTLED ABOUT THE EMERGENCY. UNION MINISTER DIKSHIT HINTED AT POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN INDIA, AND HIS REMARKS WERE CARRIED BY AN INDIAN WIRE SERVICE AND AIR. UNION MINISTER C. SUBRAMANIAM DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCY AS A "SHOCK" TO AWAKEN THE PEOPLE FROM SLUMBER. A HIGH LEVEL MEDICAL SOURCE SAYS J.P. NARAYAN IS "AWFULLY SICK" AND HAS BEEN MOVED TO A DELHI LOCATION WITH EASY ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN REPORTING AND INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN INDIA REMAINS CALM. AN EMBASSY OFFICER JUST RETURNED FROM WESTERN GUJARAT AND RAJASTHAN REPORTS THAT THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF UNREST DURING HIS SIX-DAY TOUR. SIMILAR VIEWS ARE EXPRESSED BY TRAVELLERS RECENTLY IN UTTAR PRADESH, HIMACHAL PRADESH, PUNJAB, AND KASHMIR.

2. THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO ARREST SECOND ECHELON OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND PARTY WORKERS. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASES, THERE HAVE BEEN 185 ARRESTS IN MAHARASHTRA (INCLUDING AT LEAST 89 JANA SANGH PARTY WORKERS), 90 IN GUJARAT, 532 IN BIHAR, 450 IN U.P., AND 410 IN M.P. CONGENS MADRAS AND CALCUTTA REPORT THAT MORE LOW LEVEL CPM CADRE ARE BEING ARRESTED IN KERALA AND WEST BENGAL.

3. IN TAMIL NADU, THE DMK ORGAN MURASOLI CONTINUES AT A LOWER KEY, WITHOUT CARTOONS OR EDITORIALS. THE JULY 3 LEAD ARTICLE QUOTES DMK CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDI AS CRITICIZING THE CENTER FOR FAILING TO GIVE ADEQUATE POWERS TO THE STATES SO THAT SOME OF MRS. GANDHI'S ECONOMIC MEASURES COULD HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED EARLIER. MURASOLI REPORTS THAT DMK MP CHITTY BABU HAS SENT A DIRECTIVE TO ALL DMK UNITS IN TAMIL NADU TO REPRINT THE FULL TEXT OF THE DMK'S RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE EMERGENCY IN HAND-BILLS FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE STATE. MURASOLI ALSO CARRIED AN ADVERTISEMENT ANNOUNCING THAT KARUNANIDI AND OTHER STATE MINISTERS WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING IN MADRAS SUNDAY, JULY 6. THE MADRAS CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT NO PROCESSION FOR OR AGAINST PROCLAMATION OF THE EMERGENCY WILL BE PERMITTED IN MADRAS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08935 031915Z

BE PERMITTED IN MADRAS.

4. IN CALCUTTA ON JULY 2, ABOUT 50 PERSONS (PRESUMABLY CONGRESS (R) YOUTH CADRE) DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION AGAINST RECENT BBC BROADCASTS ON THE EMERGENCY.

5. WE ARE RECEIVING INDICATIONS THAT CONGRESS (R) MPS WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED MRS. GANDHI ARE DISGRUNTLED ABOUT THE

EMERGENCY.V.N. GADGIL, FORMER MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SON OF A PROMINENT UNION CABINET MINISTER UNDER NEHRU, TOLD A BOMBAY FSL POL ANALYST JULY 3 THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 100 CONGRESS MPS WHO OPPOSE THE EMERGENCY. (WE SUSPECT THIS FIGURE IS BASED ON PRE-JUNE 26 ASSESSMENT OF DIS- SIDENTENCE; OUR IMPRESSION IS FEW CONGRESS MPS ARE TALKING TO OTHER MPS ABOUT THEIR CURRENT VIEWS.). HE THOUGHT THAT MRS. GANDHI MAY NEVER CALL ELECTIONS IN VIEW OF THE DRASTIC STEPS SHE HAS TAKEN. HE ATTACKED THE EMERGENCY AS THE PRECURSOR TO "ANOTHER BENGLA- DESH," AND STATED THAT CONGRESS LEADERS Y.B. CHAVAN AND J.J. RAM ARE UNDER 24 HOUR SURVEILLANCE. A CONGRESS (R) MP FROM TAMIL NADU DISPARAGED THE EMERGENCY IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, TERMING MRS. GANDHI A "TERRIBLE WOMAN."

6. A JULY 2 UNI STORY REPORTED REMARKS ON THE CIA MADE BY UNION MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING U.S. DIKSHIT DURING A JULY 2 AIR INTERVIEW. ACCORDING TO THE UNI STORY, DIKSHIT "SPOKE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF A PARTI- CULAR COUNTRY AND SOME FORCES AT HOME WHICH TOGETHER CREATED AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. HE, HOWEVER, SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THAT THE DOMESTIC FORCES AND THE AGENCY HAD PLANNED ANY JOINT MOVE . . . ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY, WHICH HE LATER DESCRIBED AS CIA (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY), HE AGAIN MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO PROOF ABOUT ITS ROLE, IT DID CREATE CERTAIN APPREHENSIONS." UNI QUICKLY CUT DIKSHIT'S REFERENCES TO THE CIA SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST RUN, AND THE JULY 3 MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS DID NOT INCLUDE IT IN THEIR REPORTING OF HIS REMARKS. AIR, HOWEVER, DID CARRY HIS REFERENCES TO THE CIA IN ITS JULY 3 MORNING BROADCASTS.

7. IN A JULY 2 AIR-TV INTERVIEW, MRS. GANDHI'S CLOSE CONFIDANTE AND LONG-TIME CABINET COLLEAGUE, C. SUBRAMANIAM, STATED THAT THE EMERGENCY PROVIDED A "SHOCK" TO AWAKEN THE PEOPLE FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 NEW DE 08935 031915Z

SLUMBER. IT HAS ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE HARD DECISIONS AND SKIRT "OBSTACLES" IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN STRIVING FOR ITS SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. IF THE EMERGENCY IS USED IN A "PROPER MANNER," HE CLAIMED, IT WILL STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

8. J.P. NARAYAN: THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY AT THE ALL-INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS) TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 3 THAT NARAYAN IS "AWFULLY SICK." THE SOURCE ADDED THAT NARAYAN HAS BEEN MOVED TO A LOCATION IN NEW DELHI WITH MEDICAL "FACILITIES" AND WITHIN EASY ACCESS TO THE AIIMS. SAXBE

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